WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Social security to unemployed

*227. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring a law to provide social security to the unemployed in the country; and

(b) if so, by when and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government enacted a law, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 wherein provision has been made to ensure livelihood security to the households in rural areas in the notified districts by providing a guarantee of wage employment for at least hundred days in a financial year to every rural household whose members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. If an applicant for employment under the scheme is not provided employment within fifteen days of receipt of his application seeking employment or from the date on which employment is sought, whichever is later, he shall be entitled to payment of unemployment allowance which shall not be less than one fourth of the wage rate for the first thirty days and fifty per cent of the wage rate for the remaining period.

Upgradation of textile industry

*228. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade the textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the textile units that are proposed to be upgraded in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) In order to facilitate growth and development of Indian textile industry including those in the State of Orissa, in the recent past, Government has taken a number of policy measures supported with adequate schemes which are furnished in the Statement (See below).

(c) Government of India fosters a conducive environment for setting up of industrial units in the country. It is for the management of the textile units to avail of the appropriate schemes or policy initiatives of the Government, as furnished in Statement (*See* below), that serves their interests to the best. At present, Government of India does not have any policy to establish new textile units in the Public Sector. However, as part of a modernization of the National Textile Corporation Mills, Orissa Cotton Mill, Bhagatpur in Orissa is proposed to be modernized under the Public-Private-Partnership mode.

Statement

Important measures taken by the Government in the recent past to help the textile sector

(i) To improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products, Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Misssion has achieved success in increasing the productivity and reducing the contamination through upgradation of cotton market yards and modernisation of Ginning and pressing factories.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganized sector. The Scheme has been further fine tuned to increase the rapid investments in the targeted sub-sectors of the textile industry. The cost of machinery has been further brought down by reducing the customs duty on imports.

(iii) For speedy modernisation of the textile processing sector, Government has introduced w.e.f. 20.04.05, a credit linked capital subsidy scheme @10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement.

(iv) To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units meeting international environmental

and social standards, a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) based Scheme known as the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August, 2005.

(v) In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty. In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-aided Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.

(vi) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on extile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49 which atracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues to be at 5% on most of the machinery items.

(vii) In 2005-06 Budget, 30 items of knitting and knitwear have been de-reserved. This would facilitate setting up of large sized modernized units for meeting the international competition.

(viii) In the Budget 2006-07 the following important announcements for the textile sector have been made:—

* Reduction in the excise duty on all man-made fibre yarn and filament yarn from 16 per cent to 8 per cent.

* Reduction in the import duty on all man-made fibres and yarns from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.

* Reduction in the import duty on raw materials such as DMT, PTA and MEG be from 15 per cent to 10 per cent.

* Provision of Rs. 189 crore during 2006-07 for the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP).

(ix) In the Budget 2007-08 the following important announcements for the textile sector have been made:—

* Enhancement in provision under the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP) from Rs.189 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 425 crore in 2007-08.

* Continuation of the Technology Upgradation Fund (TUF) Scheme in the Eleventh Plan with enhanced allocation of Rs. 911 crore in 2007-08 from Rs. 535 crore in 2006-07.

* Enhancement in the allocation for the handloom sector from Rs. 241 crore in 2006-07 to Rs. 321 crore for 2007-08.

* Reduction in the customs duty on polyester fibres and yarns from 10 per cent to 7.5 per cent.

(x) Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to perm it banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.

(xi) In order to cater to the growing skilled manpower requirements at shop floor level, Government is providing assistance for strengthening existing and opening new Apparel Training and Design Centres (ATDCs).

(xii) Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investments in the textile sector under automatic route.

(xiii) Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.

(xiv) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitizing the Industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry. This has resulted in an increased demand for trained professionals in various sectors servicing the industry.

(xv) To take a serious look at Fashion Education in the changing business context of the opening up of World Economies, Government is taking steps for:-

* Establishing an institution of National Excellence for imparting Fashion Business Education with International benchmarking.

* Appointing a nodal agency for standardizing and benchmarking Fashion Business Education in the country.

* Setting up an Apex Body to train the teachers/trainers imparting Fashion Business Education in the country.